Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An illumination system, comprising:

a plurality of light source modules, each light source module comprising a light-emitting surface;

~~an illumination target~~ a light tunnel having an entrance; and

a system of optical elements disposed between the plurality of light source modules and the ~~illumination target~~ light tunnel;

wherein the system of optical elements images the emitting surfaces of the light source modules onto the ~~illumination target creating a plurality of images of the emitting surfaces~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

2. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ images of the emitting surfaces are substantially superimposed to form an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 2, wherein a shape of at least one of the emitting surfaces substantially matches a shape of the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

5. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 4, wherein the shape of the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel is substantially square.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 4, wherein the shape of the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel is substantially rectangular.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 2, wherein a shape of at least one of the emitting surfaces is substantially square, a shape of the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel is substantially rectangular, and the system of optical elements is configured so that a shape of the illumination patch substantially matches the shape of the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

10. (Original) The illumination system as recited in claim 1, wherein the plurality of light source modules are disposed in an array within a non-radially symmetrical aperture.

11. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ images of the emitting surfaces are closely packed thus forming an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

12. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ images of the emitting surfaces overlap thus forming an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 1, wherein the light source modules and the system of optical elements are configured to form a plurality of channels aimed substantially into the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

15. (Original) The illumination system as recited in claim 14, wherein the light source modules are disposed tangentially to and along a spherical surface.

16. (Currently Amended) The illumination system as recited in claim 14, wherein the light source modules are disposed substantially coplanar with each other and the system of optical elements comprises means for aiming at least some light from each light source module substantially toward the ~~illumination target~~ entrance of the light tunnel.

17. (Canceled).

18. (Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~The illumination system as recited in claim 1, ~~comprising:~~
~~a plurality of light source modules,~~ wherein each light source module comprisinges a plurality of emitting surfaces of different colors disposed next to each other~~;~~
~~an illumination target; and~~
~~a system of optical elements disposed between the plurality of light source modules and the illumination target;~~
~~wherein the system of optical elements images the plurality of emitting surfaces onto the illumination target~~.

20. (Original) The illumination system as recited in claim 19, wherein each light source module comprises a first light-emitting surface of a first color, a second light-emitting surface of a second color and a third light-emitting surface of a third color.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) The illumination system as recited in claim 20, wherein the system of optical elements comprises dichroic mirrors.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Canceled).

26. (Original) The illumination system as recited in claim 20, wherein the first, second and third colors are primary colors.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) An illumination system, comprising:

a plurality of light source modules disposed in an array within a non-radially symmetrical aperture;

an illumination target; and

a system of optical elements disposed between the plurality of light source modules and the illumination target,

wherein the illumination target is an image-forming device having a plurality of mirrors rotatable about a pivot axis, and wherein the non-radially symmetrical aperture has a long dimension and a short dimension and is oriented so that the long dimension is aligned with the pivot axis of the mirrors of the image-forming device.

30-33. (Canceled).

34. (New) An illumination system, comprising:

a plurality of light source modules, each light source module comprising a light-emitting surface;

an image-forming device; and

a system of optical elements disposed between the plurality of light source modules and the image-forming device;

wherein the system of optical elements images the emitting surfaces of the light source modules onto the image-forming device.

35. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein images of the emitting surfaces are substantially superimposed to form an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the image-forming device.

36. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 35, wherein the illumination patch overfills the image-forming device.

37. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein a shape of at least one of the emitting surfaces substantially matches a shape of the image-forming device.

38. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 37, wherein the shape of image-forming device is substantially square.

39. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 37, wherein the shape of image-forming device is substantially rectangular.

40. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein a shape of at least one of the emitting surfaces is substantially square, a shape of the image-forming device is substantially rectangular, and the system of optical elements is configured so that a shape of the illumination patch substantially matches the shape of the image-forming device.

41. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein the plurality of light source modules are disposed in an array within a non-radially symmetrical aperture.

42. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein images of the emitting surfaces are closely packed thus forming an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the image-forming device.

43. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein images of the emitting surfaces overlap thus forming an illumination patch, said illumination patch substantially filling the image-forming device.

44. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein the image forming device is an LCD comprising a plurality of pixels.

45. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein the light source modules and the system of optical elements are configured to form a plurality of channels aimed substantially into the image-forming device.

46. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 45, wherein the light source modules are disposed tangentially to and along a spherical surface.

47. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 45, wherein the light source modules are disposed substantially coplanar with each other and the system of optical elements comprises means for aiming at least some light from each light source module substantially toward the image-forming device.

48. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein each light source module comprises a plurality of emitting surfaces of different colors disposed next to each other.

49. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein each light source module comprises a first light-emitting surface of a first color, a second light-emitting surface of a second color and a third light-emitting surface of a third color.

50. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 49, wherein the image forming device comprises first, second and third color zones, and wherein the system of optical elements images

the first emitting surface onto the first color zone, the second emitting surface onto the second color zone, and the third emitting surface onto the third color zone.

51. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 49, wherein the first, second and third colors are primary colors.

52. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein the system of optical elements comprises dichroic mirrors.

52. (New) The illumination system as recited in claim 34, wherein the system of optical elements comprises a lenticular array disposed between the plurality of light source modules and the image forming device.